

October 22, 2003

Richard M. Duffy
Assistant to the General President
International Association of Fire Fighters
1750 New York Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20006-5395

Dear Mr. Duffy,

I'm in receipt of a copy of a letter you sent to Director John Howard of the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health where you asked that NIOSH assist the City of Seattle in investigating potential health concerns at Fire Station 31. I want you to know that we welcome the assistance of NIOSH. I, too, have sent a letter to Mr. Howard, as well as Ms. Allison Tepper, of NIOSH's Cincinnati office, requesting the assistance of that agency.

The City and the Seattle Fire Department are working diligently to investigate this health concern. A Task Force, consisting of members from Fire Fighters Local 27 and the Chiefs Local 2898, members of Station 31, Mayor's Office, City Safety, and a variety of medical occupational health professionals and epidemiologists are working together to guide the investigation. A web site has been dedicated to provide information on the progress. To review our progress, go to <http://cityofseattle.net/fire/station31/>.

Thank you again for your concern in this matter.

Very truly yours,

Gary P. Morris, Fire Chief
Seattle Fire Department

GPM:pw

cc: Paul Atwater, President/Local 27